THE SOUL'S DESIRE

PRAYERS FROM XIX CENTURIES

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

The Soul's Desire

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He knelt—the Saviour knelt and prayed,
  When but His Father's eye
Looked through the lonely garden's shade
  On that dread agony!

GETHSEMANE:—*Mrs. Hemans.*

The Soul's Desire

A Selection of Prayers from Nineteen Centuries

No man hinder our private addresses to God: every man can build a chapel in his breast, himself the priest his heart the sacrifice, and the earth he treads on the altar. JEREMY TAYLOR.

Let prayer be the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening. MATTHEW HENRY.

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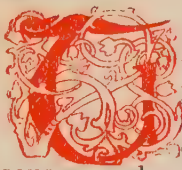
Preface



THE object of this little book is to place in the hands of the reader a careful selection of prayers drawn from various sources and ranging over nineteen centuries.

Few things are, perhaps, more remarkable than the general resemblance these various appeals bear to one another. Those which date back to the early centuries of the Christian era will be found in every way appropriate to the needs of the present day, as, in fact, they should be, for prayer deals with the essential things of life, and these do not change.

The habit of daily prayer has been the one true solace of millions of souls, and human supplications to the Creator have taken various shapes under ever-varying circumstances. The Psalms of David, the Lord's Prayer, and numerous prayers and collects from the Church Services have all been utilised, as also the forms of prayer used by notable divines and religious writers. Whilst everyone with a desire to pray can put his wants into words, there can be no

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reason against using an existing form of prayer which seems to embody the needs of the suppliant. Of course, the mere repetition of a *form* of words must not be mistaken for prayer. As John Bunyan has well expressed it, "in prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

In the present work a mechanical arrangement of prayers for fixed or consecutive days has been purposely avoided. The selection of particular prayers is left to the reader, who would do well to mark for frequent use those forms which appeal to him most strongly and express his needs most fittingly.

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
  Uttered or unexpressed;
The motion of a hidden fire
  That trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
  The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye
  When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
  That infant lips can try;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach
  The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
  Returning from his ways,
While Angels in their songs rejoice,
  And cry, "Behold, he prays!"

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
  The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death:
  He enters heaven with prayer.

The saints in prayer appear as one
  In word, and deed, and mind,
While with the Father and the Son
  Sweet fellowship they find.

O Thou by whom we come to God,
  The Life, the Truth, the Way,
The path of prayer Thyself hast trod:
  Lord, teach us how to pray.

J. MONTGOMERY.

LORD ALMIGHTY, Who art the God of our lives, the author of all our happiness, and the only source from which we can derive any true consolation and hope;—and who hast also declared in Thy word, that Thou hearest the prayers of Thy creatures, and art rich in mercy unto all who devoutly call upon Thee;—encouraged by Thy gracious promises, we sinners, hopeless in ourselves, and exposed to Thy just condemnation, presume to call upon Thy Name and to implore Thy blessing and Thy mercy.

We confess, that we have all trespassed against Thee. We have sinned by our early forgetfulness of Thee: our iniquities have advanced with our advancing years: and if we now attempt to recollect all the evil which we have done, we are confounded by the multitude of our offences. We confess that we have been vain and worldly; proud and self-willed; professing, indeed, the Christian faith; but too much engrossed by the present world, and too thoughtless of eternity; inclined to cherish delusive hopes of much earthly good; eager also for reputation with our fellow-creatures; but little anxious to please

Thee, and to secure our everlasting salvation.

We lament especially, that though Thy Gospel hath been preached to us, we have heard it with so much indifference. We lament that, notwithstanding the powerful nature of its doctrines, we have been so little affected by it; so often refusing to follow Thy will, and the precepts of Christ: choosing rather to live according to the will of men, and the corrupt customs of this sinful world. O Lord, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may not remain insensible to Thy mercies in Jesus Christ. May we lie down this night deeply affected with the importance of eternity; and resolved to give up our future lives to that God who made us, and to that Saviour who hath redeemed us by His most precious blood.

We desire, also, to thank Thee for Thy many temporal gifts. Blessed be Thy name for all the mercies which we have experienced this day—for our health and strength—for our food and raiment—for the various accommodations and comforts of this mortal life. We are not worthy, O Lord, of the least of all Thy bounties. May we be enabled to view them as the gifts of our reconciled Father, and while we enjoy these earthly

blessings, may we look forward, with cheerful and humble hope, to those greater things, which, as yet, "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man to conceive;" but which Thou hast prepared for them who love Thee.

Accept, for our Saviour's sake, whatever we may have done this day in any measure according to Thy commands; and receive these our imperfect prayers, which we offer in His name.

HENRY THORNTON.

OST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we kneel down to thank Thee for Thy protection and care during the past night: and we now lift up our voice unto Thee in the morning, imploring Thee this day to bless us; watching over us by Thy good providence; putting Thy Spirit within us, and delivering us from all evil.

We are prone, O Lord, to fall into sin. How many incidents—every day—arise, which, if Thy grace be withheld from us, draw forth our natural corruption. We, therefore, pray Thee, Who knowest our frame, and foreseest the trials which are to come upon us, mercifully to prepare us for them; and enable us, amidst the various difficulties, temptations, and sorrows of life, to walk as the patient followers of Christ, and as the faithful servants of the Most High God.

We bless Thee, O God, for all Thy goodness to us in times past:—for having lightened any of our trials; and for having taken out of our way any of the difficulties and snares which, at any time, have beset us:—and we desire to be thankful, also, for every affliction which Thou hast either sanctified or removed.

We thank Thee, that we are here met together, in so much peace and comfort, to offer up our praises to Thee; we thank Thee, that we are yet in the land of the living,—having time given us for repentance, and having every opportunity of knowing Thy holy will. We thank Thee for all Thine unnumbered mercies; for our health and strength, and all our worldly goods; for our friends and kind benefactors; and we pray that we may, each of us in our stations, be instruments in Thine hand for the benefit of our fellow-creatures in the world, of the truth and excellency of Thy Gospel.

O Lord, grant that this day we may walk in a manner worthy of our great obligations to Thee, and of our high and heavenly calling. May we remember both Thy spiritual and temporal mercies, and be occupied in acts of grateful obedience to Thee. And we pray Thee to impress upon us more deeply those truths of Thy Gospel, by which our hearts become prepared for every good and beneficent work. May we think of that Saviour Who died on the cross for us; Who endured all the extremities of misery that we might be saved, and is now at Thy right hand, making intercession for us. May we

remember our Christian profession; living as believers in this crucified Lord, deeply affected with the remembrance of His death, and animated by His glorious resurrection. May we all die unto sin, and live unto righteousness; and, as He, Who hath called us, is Holy, may we also be holy in all manner of conversation. We pray, O Lord, for Thy protection this day: and may we faithfully follow Him Whose name we bear; may we have hope in His mercy, and may we at length enter into His glory.

HENRY THORNTON.

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, on whom all Thy creatures everywhere depend for life, and breath, and all things; in whose favour all their true happiness consists; and whose wrath is insupportable—we, Thy creatures, whom Thine hand hath made, and whom Thy bounty hath supported, kneel down to acknowledge the Author of our being, and to pray for Thy blessings upon us.

We lament, that we are by nature so prone to evil; and that, amidst the many gifts bestowed upon us, we so seldom lift up our thoughts to Him who is the giver. Every night—Thou again refreshest us with sleep: and every morning—Thou renewest Thy various mercies to us; giving us health, and strength, and talents for Thy service, and affording to us fresh opportunities for our usefulness in the world.

We pray, that, as our days pass away, we may be improving the time which is allotted to us. May we gather wisdom from Thy sacred word. May we dilligently attend on the means of grace: and may we labour, each of us, as Thy faithful servants, in our several callings.

We pray Thee to impress upon us a deep sense of the importance of eternity. May we be looking continually to the end of our course; and, remembering how soon all in which we here delight shall have passed away for ever, may we prepare to give up our account of all things done in the body; and, day by day, may we have our conversation in Heaven; moderating our affections towards the things of this world, and living here below a life of faith in the Son of God.

And now, O Lord, whatsoever may be that employment which Thy providence allotteth to us, may we fulfil it as in Thy fear, and with a view to Thy glory. And wheresoever we are this day, be Thou present with us to bless us. May Thy Spirit enlighten, strengthen, and direct us. May we fall into no sin; nor run into any kind of danger. We pray, especially, for grace to conquer those sins which do most easily beset us. Thou knowest, O Lord, our several infirmities. O give us grace to be careful and circumspect; and to avoid every approach to our former temptations; and enable us to renew our repentance with unfeigned sorrow and contrition of heart.

Hear us, we now beseech Thee, in these our imperfect supplications;—forgive us all our past transgressions; and grant us grace for the time to come;—all which we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

HENRY THORNTON

GOD, Who hast commanded us in Thy word to call upon Thy name, and hast declared that Thou hearest and answerest the prayers of those who make their supplications unto Thee, we desire now to offer up our petitions, under a deep sense of our unworthiness, and of Thy manifold and great mercies.

We bless Thee for Thy preservation of us during the past night; and we desire to acknowledge again our dependence upon Thee, and our unfeigned obligations towards Thee. We thank Thee for having poured down upon us so many blessings of this life; we thank Thee for our health and strength; for our food and raiment; and for all the comforts and conveniences which we enjoy. But, above all, we praise Thee for the inestimable privilege of being born in a land of religious light and knowledge. For these, and for all other Thy various and great mercies, we would render unto Thee a thankful heart; and we would endeavour to show our gratitude, not with our lips only, but with our lives; by giving up ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee, in holiness and righteousness, all our days on earth.

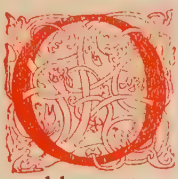
We now beseech Thee to enable us by Thy grace to pass the whole of this day in Thy fear. May we employ ourselves in doing those things which become our station and circumstances; may we mortify all our corrupt affections; may we exercise ourselves in maintaining a conscience void of offence towards Thee, and towards all men; may we rise superior to every temptation; and, by Thy Blessed Spirit strengthening us, may we prevail over our several infirmities.

We pray Thee, O Lord, to animate our minds by those glorious hopes which are set before us in Thy word; so that if we have any present sacrifices to make, they may seem small to us, in comparison of that inward satisfaction and joy, which the Gospel gives in the midst of worldly disappointments. And, at the same time, deliver us from every false hope. May we examine well our title to Heaven, till we know that our foundation is sure, and shall never fail us. We confess that we are daily compassed with infirmity: but we pray that every evil habit may be weakened in us; that every temptation may, by degrees, be overcome; and that every terror may at length be done away. May we thus be brought into the true liberty of the

children of God; and serve Thee without fear, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our life.

Hear, O Lord, these our prayers; and supply both our temporal and spiritual wants, for the sake of Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour.

HENRY THORNTON.



LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, we pray Thee now to deliver us from all wandering thoughts. Help us to remember in whose presence we are; and enable us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth.

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, Who art the preserver of our lives and the giver of all the good things which we enjoy, we thank Thee for the mercies of the past night. We bless Thy name that we are here met together in so much health and comfort; and that we have now the prospect of passing another day in the enjoyment of the bounties of Thy providence; while we have also set before us the blessed hope of everlasting life. We beseech Thee to give us grace to serve Thee in our several stations, and to walk according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Save us from the temptations of the day; strengthen us for the fulfilment of our duties; direct us under all our difficulties; and comfort us under any trouble or adversity into which we may come; and grant that, when we lie down at night, we may be able to look back on the hours which shall have passed, with an humble confidence that Thou acceptest our ser-

vices, and wilt pardon our infirmities—for Jesus Christ's sake.

We beseech Thee to deliver us from all evil passions, from pride and envy, from hatred and ill-will, from censoriousness and uncharitableness; and, especially, from the want of Christian kindness towards those who dwell with us in the same family, and worship Thee, together, as partakers of the same faith. Preserve us, also, from those secret transgressions which Thine eye alone can discern in us. Deliver each of us from the sins which most easily beset us. O Lord, grant that Thy Spirit may this day abide within us; and dispose us to every good work.

And help us also to call often to remembrance the great love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; who came down from Heaven to die for us, that we, being delivered from the dread of Thy wrath, and rejoicing in the hope of Thy mercy, might serve Thee day by day in newness of life. O Lord, strengthen our faith in Him who hath suffered on the cross for us. Teach us to walk according to His example. May we, like Him, be kind and compassionate, forbearing and forgiving, holy and harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners.

And bless us not this day only, but to the end of our lives. We pray, that so long as we remain in this world of trial, Thou wouldst strengthen us by Thy Holy Spirit, and comfort us, and continually direct us. Suffer us not, at any time, to depart from Thee, who art our Father, and our God, through any allurements of the world, or any temptations of the flesh, or of the Devil, but make us ever steadfast in Thy truth, and faithful to Thy cause, and devoted to Thy service.

We offer up these our imperfect prayers, in the name, and through the mediation, of our only Saviour Jesus Christ.

HENRY THORNTON.

LORD GOD, our Heavenly Father, Who art the Maker of all things, and the Judge of all men, we Thy creatures, who live upon Thy daily bounty, and are accountable to Thee for all we do, desire now to offer up our acknowledgments of Thy goodness during the past day, and to implore Thy forgiving mercy.

We would lament the trespasses which we have this day committed. Thou seest, O Lord, all our hearts. We are blind and ignorant, prone to error, yet impatient of reproof. We often deceive ourselves with the mere appearance of goodness; but Thou knowest every false way in which we allow ourselves to walk. Pardon, we beseech Thee, for Jesus Christ's sake, whatever evil we have thought, or said, or done, on this day. Pardon all the multitude of our iniquities. Teach us continually to examine our lives by the light of Thine unerring word; and vouchsafe unto us true repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ.

We pray Thee, also, to pour out upon us the gift of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may amend our ways, and walk in newness of life. Thou hast favoured

us with much religious knowledge, and with many means of grace. O teach us ever to remember, that, unto whom much is given, of them shall much be required. And grant that we may not live, as the children of this world, employing our time in vain and unprofitable things; but may we endeavour to be useful in that station in which Thou hast placed us. As we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so may we walk in Him. May we excel especially in those tempers, and abound in those works, which His Gospel has required. May we be full of meekness and patience, of kindness and forbearance, of benevolence and charity. Being established in the love of God, may we also love our neighbour with a pure heart, fervently. Grant us Thy grace, that we may not have a name to live, while we are dead; or possess only that faith which is without works, and can profit neither ourselves nor those around us; but may we abound in all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the praise and glory of God.

We also beseech Thee to bless unto us the events of Thy providence; and so to order all things during the remainder of our lives, that they may issue in our eternal good. We know not what

a day may bring forth. O sanctify unto us our adversity, and our prosperity; our sickness, and our health; and whatever may be the vicissitudes which Thou art pleased to send, may we consider them as coming from Thy fatherly hand, and never repine under them. Enable us to maintain a cheerful and contented mind; and, being reconciled to Thee our God, may we enjoy peace within ourselves, and be in charity with all men.

These our imperfect supplications we humbly present in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

HENRY THORNTON.

MY GOD, I come into Thy presence, do Thou teach me. My sins are more in number than the hairs of my head, yet do Thou show me the light of Thy countenance, and I shall be whole. I adore Thee, O my God; Thou art the Truth, and to know Thee is life eternal, accept this my meditation, and grant that my secret thoughts may be acceptable to Thee in the presence of the whole company of Heaven, that Thou mayest be glorified in my prayer. I surrender myself to Thy holy will, grant me patience to persevere in prayer, notwithstanding the dryness and desolation I may find therein. Give me Thy grace that I may use all the powers of my mind for Thy glory. I can do nothing of myself, O Lord; yet teach me by Thy Holy Spirit to pray to Thee as I ought. Show me what Thou wilt have me to do. Dispose of me, and of all that is mine according to Thy good pleasure, and give me Thy grace that I may love Thee with all my heart, and at length attain to a happy death; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

REMEMBER, O most Pitying Father, what this frail and feeble work of Thine hands can bear without fainting; nothing, indeed, of itself, but all things in Thee, if strengthened by Thy grace. Wherefore grant me strength, that I may suffer and endure; patience alone I ask. Lord, give me this, and behold my heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready to receive whatsoever shall be laid upon me; may it even be a consolation to me, that afflicting me with pain, Thou sparest not here, that Thou mayest spare hereafter.

Grant, O Lord, that in my patience I may possess my soul; to that end may I often look upon the Face of Christ Thy Son, that as He hath suffered such terrible things in the flesh, I may endeavour to be armed with the same mind. Wherefore I commit my strength unto Thee, O Lord; for Thou art my Strength and my Refuge; Thou dost uphold my life. Behold, O Lord, now am I in the midst of the fire, and how long I shall be there, Thou knowest. Keep me, Thou Who didst preserve un-

hurt the Three Children in the furnace at Babylon, and bring me forth safely out of this trial when it shall please Thee, as Thou didst deliver them, that I also may bless Thee with all Thy creatures for ever.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

RANT me Thy grace, most Merciful Jesus, that it may be with me, and work with me, and continue with me even to the end. Grant me ever to will and to desire what is most pleasing unto Thee. Let Thy will be mine, and my will ever follow Thine in perfect agreement with it, that so I may neither choose nor reject, save what Thou choosest and rejectest.

Grant me to die to all that is in the world, and for love of Thee to be content to be despised and unknown in this life. Grant me above all objects of desire, to rest in Thee, and to still my heart to perfect peace in Thee. For Thou art the true Peace of the heart, Thou art its only Rest, and out of Thee all is restless and unquiet. In this Peace, that is in Thyself alone, my chiefest and eternal Good, may I lay me down and take my rest.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose name is great, Whose nature is blissful, Whose goodness is inexhaustible, ruler of all things, Who art blessed for evermore, sanctify our souls and bodies, we beseech Thee. Cast out from us every evil thought, every base desire, all envy and pride, all wrath and anger, all worldly ambitions, covetousness, vain-glory, and sloth; more especially the remembrance of injuries, and everything that is contrary to Thy holy will. And grant unto us, O Lover of men, with pure hearts and contrite souls to call upon Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF S. JAMES.

E yield Thee thanks, we yield Thee exceeding thanks, O Lord our God, as touching all things, and for all things, through all things, and in all things; for that Thou hast sheltered us, succoured us, kept us, and brought us to this hour. If we have at all sinned against Thee, in thought or word or deed, do Thou, O Lover of men, vouchsafe to overlook it; and forsake not us, O God, who put our trust in Thee, nor lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one and from his works, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

COPTIC LITURGY OF S. MARK.

LORD I fling myself with all my weakness and misery into Thy ever-open arms. I know that I am ignorant and much mistaken about myself. Thou, who seest in very truth, look mercifully on me. Lay Thy healing hand upon my wounds. Pour the life-giving balm of Thy love into my heart. Do for me what I have not the courage to do for myself. Save me in spite of myself. May I be Thine; wholly Thine, and, at all costs, Thine. In humiliation, in poverty, in suffering, in self-abnegation, Thine. Thine in the way Thou knowest to be most fitting, in order that Thou mightest be now and ever mine. Thou art my Strength and my Redeemer. I am Thy poor little creature, dependent on Thy merciful charity alone—Amen.

PÈRE BESSON.

RANT me, I beseech Thee, Almighty and most Merciful God, fervently to desire, wisely to search out, and perfectly to fulfil, all that is well-pleasing unto Thee. Order Thou my worldly condition to the glory of Thy name; and, of all that Thou requirest me to do, grant me the knowledge, the desire, and the ability, that I may so fulfil it as I ought, and may my path to Thee, I pray, be safe, straightforward, and perfect to the end.

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give me an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give me an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon me also, O Lord my God, understanding to know Thee, diligence to seek Thee, wisdom to find Thee, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace Thee—Amen.

S. THOMAS AQUINAS.

LL-SEEING Light, and Eternal Life of all things, look upon my misery with Thine eye of mercy, and let Thine infinite power vouchsafe to limit out some portion of deliverance unto me, as unto Thee shall seem most convenient. But yet, O my God, I yield unto Thy will, and joyfully embrace what sorrow Thou wilt have me suffer. Only thus much let me crave of Thee (let my craving, O Lord, be accepted of Thee, since even that proceeds from Thee)—let me crave even by the noblest title, which in my greatest affliction I may give myself, that I am Thy creature, and by Thy goodness (which is Thyself), that Thou wilt suffer some beam of Thy Majesty so to shine into my mind, that it may still depend confidently on Thee.—Amen.

SIR PHILIP SIDNEY.

KNOW, O Lord, Thou wilt do Thy part towards me, as I, through Thy grace, desire to do my part towards Thee. I know well Thou canst never forsake those who seek Thee, nor disappoint those who trust Thee. Yet I know, too, the more I pray for Thy protection, the more surely and fully I shall have it. And therefore now I cry out to Thee, and entreat Thee, first that Thou wouldest keep me from myself, and from following any will but Thine. Next, I beg of Thee that, in Thine infinite compassion, Thou wouldest temper Thy will to me. Visit me not, O my loving Lord—if it be not wrong so to pray,—visit me not with those trying visitations which saints alone can bear! Pity my weakness, and lead me heavenwards in a safe and tranquil course. Still I leave all in Thy hands,—only,—if Thou shalt bring heavier trials on me, give me more grace, flood me with the fulness of Thy strength and consolation—Amen.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

BLESS Thee, my Father and my Friend, for all that Thou hast given me, and for all that Thou hast taken from me; for all my trials and sorrows, as well as for all my joys. Thou hast mercifully led me through this wilderness, and hast borne with my many shortcomings and evil-doings. Thou art indeed most gracious and glorious, a Father of mercies, and a God of love. Rouse this sluggish heart of mine, and fill it with gratitude. And be with me, Lord, for the time to come. I know not what is before me, but Thou knowest. Choose Thou my portion for me. Lead me by Thine own hand; and keep me close to Thee, day by day, and night by night. My Father, I wish to love and obey Thee. Take my heart, for I cannot give it to Thee; and put away everything that hinders me from being altogether Thine—Amen.

ASHTON OXENDON.

WORSHIP Thee, O my God, with all my best love and awe, with my fervent affection, with my most subdued, most resolved will. O make my heart beat with Thy heart. Purify it of all that is earthly, all that is proud and sensual, all that is hard and cruel, of all perversity, of all disorder, of all deadness. So fill it with Thee, that neither the events of the day nor the circumstances of the time may have power to ruffle it; but that in Thy love and Thy fear it may have peace—Amen.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

THOU Good Omnipotent, Who so carest for every-one of us, as if Thou caredst for him alone; and so for all, as if all were but one, we behold how some things pass away that others may replace them, but Thou dost never depart, O God, our Father supremely good, Beauty of all things beautiful. To Thee will we entrust whatsoever we have received from Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. AUGUSTINE.

OST Merciful Father and Lord, although we sin we cannot cease to be Thy children; because Thou hast made, and re-made us, we humbly beseech Thee not to act towards us according to our transgressions, but according to that mercy of Thine which transcends the sins of the whole world. Our hearts are open to Thee. Scatter their darkness, fill them with the brightness of Thy love; and make us now and always temples fit for Thee to dwell in, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. AUGUSTINE.

E give Thee thanks, O our God, our mercy Who has vouchsafed to lead us to a conception of Thee, that in Thine unbounded goodness Thou hast patience with us, waiting for the amendment of our lives.

We praise Thee that Thou hast vouchsafed to grant us a quiet life, with the love and charity of Thy servants. Holy of holies, Who makest all things holy, we worship and give thanks unto Thee. Let us bless Thee in all the actions of our lives; and let our whole natures, within and without, glorify Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. ANSELM.

ELP us, O Lord our God, since we cannot flee from the body nor the body from us. We must needs carry it about because it is bound up with us. We cannot destroy it, we are forced to preserve it; but the world surrounds us, and assails us through the five gateways of sense. Alas! everywhere we are in conflict, everywhere darts fly against us, everywhere there are temptations and snares. Deliver us from our enemies, we beseech Thee; and defend us from all dangers to soul and body, that at length we may come to Thine eternal rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. BERNARD.

LORD GOD, holy Father, be Thou blessed both now and for evermore; because, as Thou willest so it is done, and that which Thou doest is good. Let Thy servants rejoice in Thee, not in themselves, nor in anything else, for Thou alone art the true gladness. Thou art our hope, and our crown; Thou art our joy and our honour, O Lord. What have Thy servants but what they have received from Thee? If Thou givest peace, the souls of Thy servants are full of melody; but, if Thou withdrawest Thyself, meet and right it is that Thy servants should suffer, and in the sight of men should fail, that they may rise again with Thee in the dawn of a new light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THOMAS à KEMPIS.

ALMIGHTY GOD, give to Thy servants meek and gentle spirits, that they may be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath. Give them wise and constant hearts, that they may never be moved to intemperate anger for any injury done or offered to them. Lord, let us ever be courteous, easy to be entreated, and desirous to be reconciled. Let no sickness or accident, no employment or weariness, make us ungentle or discontented, unthankful or uneasy to those who minister to us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

E make our prayer unto the God of our life. So long as we live will we magnify Thee, and lift up our hands in Thy name. Let our prayer be set forth in Thy sight as the incense. Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, the God of our fathers, Who hast created the changes of day and night. Deal not with us after our sins, neither reward us after our iniquities; and look mercifully upon our infirmities, for the glory of Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BISHOP ANDREWS.

GOD, Who alone hast in Thyself all good, we would not choose the least thing that is contrary to Thy will. We would be, only and for ever, that which Thou willest. Guide us we beseech Thee, in Thy way of peace and love. Grant that those who seek Thee now may seek Thee more hereafter, and that we all may find Thee, and love Thee with an everlasting love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EDWARD BOUVERIE PUSEY.

EACH us, O Lord; and take us out of the languor, the irritability, the sensitiveness, the anarchy, in which our souls lie, and fill them with Thy fulness. Breathe on us with that breath which infuses energy, and kindles fervour. In asking for fervour, we ask for all that we can need, and all that Thou canst give. In asking for fervour, we ask for faith, hope, and charity, in their most heavenly exercise; we ask for sanctity, peace, and joy, all at once. Lord, in asking for fervour, we ask for Thyself, for nothing short of Thee, O our God. Enter our hearts, and fill them with fervour by filling them with Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

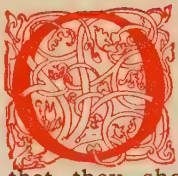
JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldst be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially, we pray for the good estate of the Catholic Church; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted, or distressed in mind, body, or estate; that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BISHOP GUNNING.

THOU, Who art the everlasting essence of things, beyond space and time, and yet within them; Thou, Who transcendest yet pervadest all things, manifest Thyself unto us, feeling after Thee, and seeking Thee in the shades of ignorance. Stretch forth Thy hand to help us, who cannot, without Thee, come to Thee; and reveal Thyself unto us, who seek nothing beside Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

JOHN SCOTUS ERIGENA.



GOOD LORD, Thy servants entreat Thee for their fellow-servants, that they may be reconciled to Thee for Thy sake. Our inmost hearts desire that they should love Thee and one another, according to Thy will, as is expedient for us all; so that we may together satisfy our common Master, by the teaching of charity for the common good, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. ANSELM.

ELMIGHTY and Eternal God, Who has sent us into this world to live according to Thy laws, look in mercy upon us, we beseech Thee; and enable us to do our duty wisely hour by hour; and grant that having served our generation, we may be gathered to our fathers with the comfort of a reasonable hope in Thee, and in perfect charity with all men; so that neither life nor death, nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature may be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

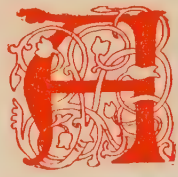
JEREMY TAYLOR.

THOU Holy Lover of Souls, when Thou comest into our hearts all that is within us rejoiceth. Thou art our glory and the uplifting of our hearts. Love is born of Thee, and cannot rest but in Thee. Love feels no burden. It attempts what is above its strength, and is able to undertake all things. It watcheth; and sleeping, slumbereth not; when weary, it is not tired; when straitened, it is not constrained; when frightened, it is not disturbed; but like a living flame it mounteth upward, and securely passeth through all. Whosoever loveth knoweth the cry of this voice. Let us therefore love Thee, O Lord, more than ourselves, nor love ourselves but for Thee; and in Thee, all that truly love Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THOMAS à KEMPIS.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, Pattern of humility, Who didst empty Thyself of Thy glory, and take upon Thee the form of a servant: root out of us all pride and swelling of heart, that owning ourselves miserable and guilty sinners we may willingly bear contempt and reproaches for Thy sake, and glorying in nothing, save only in Thee: may esteem ourselves lowly in Thy sight. Not unto us, O Lord, but to Thy Name be the praise, for Thy loving mercy and for Thy truth's sake.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.



LMIGHTY GOD, Who hast promised to hear the petitions of them that ask in Thy Son's name, we beseech Thee mercifully to incline Thine ears to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto Thee; and grant that those things, which we have faithfully asked according to Thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of Thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ARCHBISHOP CRANMER.

EARLY in the morning, O Lord, will we direct our prayer unto Thee, and will look up. Blessed art Thou Who didst create the heavens and the heavenly powers.

We confess our sins, and the sins of our forefathers, for we have all transgressed, and neglected Thee. But set not, O God, our misdeeds before us, nor our past life in the light of our countenance. Truly our hope is in Thee; in Thee have we trusted, let us never be confounded. We pray for the whole race of mankind, for the supply of what is wanting unto each, and for succour and comfort unto all. And for Thy whole creation do we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BISHOP ANDREWS.

LORD GOD, Who lightenest every man that cometh into the world, enlighten my heart, I pray Thee, with the light of Thy grace, that I may fully know my sins, shortcomings, and negligences, and may confess them with that true sorrow and contrition of heart which befits me. I desire to make full amends for all my sins, to live more holily for the future, and for the salvation of my soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

MASTER of all things, Lord of Heaven and earth, and of every creature visible and invisible, Who sittest upon the throne of glory, and beholdest the abysses, unbeginning, invisible, incomprehensible, uncircumscribed, unchangeable Father, Thou spakest unto us by the mouth of Thy servants the prophets, Thou gavest the law for an help. And, when the fulness of the time was come, Thou spakest unto us in Thy Son, Who—being the brightness of Thy glory, and the express image of Thy person—was seen upon earth, and mingled with men, taking the form of a servant, made like unto the body of our humility, that He might make us like unto the image of His glory . . . . We hymn Thee, we bless Thee, we give thanks to Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF S. BASIL THE GREAT.

LESSED be Thou, O Lord God, the God of our fathers, Who lightenest the face of the earth, Who makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to praise Thee. We laid us down and slept, and rose up again, for Thou sustained us. Grant us to be children of the light, and of the day; vouchsafe to keep us without sin. One day telleth another, and one night certifieth another. Let us hear Thy loving kindness in the morning, for in Thee is our trust. Show us the way in which we should walk, for we lift up our ouls unto Thee. Teach us to do the things that please Thee, for Thou art the Lord our God; and let Thy good Spirit lead us into the land of uprightness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BISHOP ANDREWS.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, to whom nothing is dark, nothing is obscure, send forth, we pray Thee, Thy light into our hearts, that we may perceive the brightness of Thy commandments; and, walking in Thy way, may fall into no error, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF S. GREGORY.

LORD, let me not henceforth desire health or life, except to spend them for Thee, with Thee, and in Thee. Thou alone knowest what is good for me; do, therefore, what seemeth Thee best. Give to me, or take from me; conform my will to Thine; and grant that, with humble and perfect submission, and in holy confidence, I may receive the orders of Thine eternal Providence; and may equally adore all that comes to me from Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

BLAISE PASCAL.

MY GOD, my whole life has been a course of mercies and blessings shown to one who has been most unworthy of them. Year after year Thou hast carried me on, removed dangers from my path, refreshed me, borne with me, directed me, sustained me. O forsake me not, when my strength faileth me. And Thou never wilt forsake me. I may securely repose upon Thee. While I am true to Thee, Thou wilt still, and to the end, be super-abundantly good to me. I may rest upon Thy arm; I may go to sleep in Thy bosom. Only give me, and increase in me, that true loyalty to Thee, which is the bond of the covenant between Thee and me, and the pledge in my own heart and conscience that Thou, the Supreme God, wilt not forsake me.—Amen.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

LORD, in Whose hands are life and death, by Whose power I am sustained, and by Whose mercy I am spared, look down upon me with pity. Forgive me that I have until now so much neglected the duty which Thou hast assigned to me, and suffered the days and hours of which I must give account to pass away without any endeavour to accomplish Thy will. Make me to remember, O God, that every day is Thy gift, and ought to be used according to Thy command. Grant me, therefore, so to repent of my negligence, that I may obtain mercy from Thee, and pass the time which Thou shalt yet allow me in diligent performance of Thy commands, through Jesus Christ—Amen.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

THOU, Who very early in the morning, about the rising of the sun, wast pleased to leave Thy empty tomb, and return again from the dead; raise me, I pray Thee, to walk in the newness of life, by such daily exercise of repentance and virtue, as may keep me dead unto sin, but alive unto God, through Thee, and save me.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

OD the Almighty, the true and incomparable, Who art ever existent and all-present, Who art not circumscribed by place, Who growest not old by time, Who art not limited by ages, Who art not led aside by words, Who art incapable of turning, Who art immutable by nature, Who inhabitest the light which no man can approach unto, Who art apprehensible by all rational natures that seek Thee, grant unto us the desires of our hearts so far as may be expedient for us; for in Thee is glory, laud, magnificence, worship, adoration, now and ever, and to ages and ages, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF S. CLEMENT.

HOU, Who hast given us grace, at this time with one accord, to make our common supplications unto Thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou wilt grant their requests, fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF S. CHRYSOSTOM.

THOU, Who fillest Heaven and earth, ever acting, ever at rest, Thou Who art everywhere and everywhere wholly present, Who art not absent even when far off, Who with Thy whole being fillest yet transcendest all things, Thou Who teachest the hearts of the faithful without the din of words, teach us, we pray Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. AUGUSTINE.

FATHER of Mercies! Who hast no pleasure in the death of a sinner, look upon me in the multitude of Thy mercies. I cast all the offences of this day and of my whole life, into the depths of Thine eternal love wherewith Thou hast loved us. I grieve from my inmost heart that I have been so ungrateful for Thy many blessings to me, and that I have so often offended Thee, my God and my Chief Good. I beseech Thee by the death and by the love of Thy Son Jesus Christ, spare me, a wretched sinner, and of Thine exceeding mercy, forgive me all that I have this day, or ever committed, either against Thee, my neighbour, or myself.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

GOD, my God, I am all weakness, but Thou art my Strength; I am ever anew bowed down by any trial, but Thou canst and willest to lift me up. Let me not fail, O God my Strength; let me not be discouraged, O God, my Hope. Draw me each day, if it be but a little nearer unto Thee; make me, each day, if it be but a little less unlike Thee; let me do or bear each day something, for love of Thee, whereby I may be fitter for Thee. Let no day pass without my having done something pleasing unto Thee. Thus alone would I live, that I may live more unto Thee; thus would I die, longing to love Thee more—Amen.

EDWARD BOUVERIE PUSEY.

GOD, ever blessed and holy, none but the angels and Thy redeemed can serve Thee with a perfect joy. Called in our measure to be perfect as Thou art perfect, we have been most unlike to Thee, and are not worthy to be deemed Thy children. Thirsting with momentary desires, we have forsaken the living springs of heavenly wisdom, of which he that drinketh shall never thirst again. We have been slow to the calls of affection, heedless of the duties, hard under the sorrows, which are Thy gracious discipline; yet are oppressed with cares Thou layest not on us, with ease Thou dost not permit, and wants Thou wilt never bless. Visit us with the wrestlings of Thy Spirit: and lay on us the cross, if we may but grow into the holiness, of Christ—Amen.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

THOU, Whose name is Love, Who never turnest away from the cry of Thy needy children, give ear to my prayer this morning. Make this a day of blessing to me, and make me a blessing to others. Keep all evil away from me. Preserve me from outward transgression and from secret sin. Help me to control my temper. May I check the first risings of anger or sullenness. If I meet with unkindness or ill-treatment, give me that charity which suffereth long and beareth all things. Make me kind and gentle towards all, loving even those who love me not. Let me live this day as if it were to be my last. O my God, show me the path that Thou wouldest have me to follow. May I take no step that is not ordered by Thee, and go nowhere except Thou, Lord, go with me—Amen.

ASHTON OXENDON.

E give Thee thanks, O Lord our God, for Thy goodness at all times and in all places; because Thou hast shielded, rescued, helped, and guided us all the days of our lives, and brought us unto this hour. We pray and beseech Thee, merciful God, of Thy goodness to grant that we may spend this day without sin, and in joyous reverence of Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LITURGY OF S. MARK.

GOD, if only our wills be right towards Thine, do to us whatsoever it may please Thee. If it be Thy will that we should be in light, be Thou blessed; if it be Thy will that we should be in darkness, be Thou also blessed; if Thou vouchsafe to comfort us, be Thou blessed; if Thou afflictest us, be Thou also blessed. We cheerfully receive whatsoever Thou dost appoint, and for all that befalleth us we give thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THOMAS à KEMPIS.

RANT us, we beseech Thee, Almighty and most Merciful God, fervently to desire, wisely to search out, and perfectly to fulfil, all that is well-pleasing unto Thee. Order Thou our worldly condition to the glory of Thy name; and, of all that Thou requirest us to do grant us the knowledge, the desire and the ability, that we may fulfil it as we ought; and that our path to Thee may be safe, straight forward, and perfect to the end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. THOMAS AQUINAS.

THOU wonderful and mighty God, Whose power and wisdom hath no end, Thou art our Father, and we will love and worship Thee for ever and ever. A ray from Thy light hath shone into our inward eye; guide us onward to the perfect light, that it may illumine us wholly. Let Thy love so stir within our hearts that we may discern Thee clearly, for it is the pure in heart who see Thee. Thou hast set us free, Thou hast drawn us to Thee; therefore guide and perfect us for Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. AUGUSTINE.

GOD, we have sinned against Thee. The good that we would, we do not; the evil that we would not, we do. Yet we consent unto the law that it is good; we delight in it, after the inward man. One thing we desire of Thee, that we may dwell in Thy House all the days of our life, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to visit His temple. Remove far from us vanity and lies. Give us neither poverty nor riches, feed us with food convenient for us. Let us learn in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BISHOP ANDREWS.

GOD, Light of the minds that see Thee, Life of the souls that love Thee, and Strength of the thoughts that seek Thee, enlarge our minds and raise the vision of our hearts, that with swift wings of thought our spirits may reach Thee, the eternal wisdom, who art from everlasting to everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. AUGUSTINE.

MOST MEEK JESU, Prince of Peace, Who, when Thou wast reviled, reviled not again, and on the Cross didst pray for Thy murderers: implant in our hearts the virtues of gentleness, and patience, that restraining the fierceness of anger, impatience, and resentment, we may overcome evil with good, for Thy sake love our enemies, and as children of our heavenly Father seek Thy peace and evermore rejoice in Thy love.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

GOD, Who hast commanded that no man should be idle, give us grace to enjoy all our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us; that whatsoever our hand findeth to do, we may do it with our might. Cheerfully may we go on in the road which Thou hast marked out, not desiring too earnestly that it should be either more smooth or more wide; but, daily seeking our way by Thy light, may we trust ourselves and the issue of our journey, to Thee the Fountain of Joy, and sing songs of praise as we go along. Then, O Lord, receive us at the gate of life which Thou hast opened for us in Christ Jesus—Amen.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

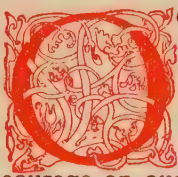
FATHER, calm the turbulence of our passions; quiet the throbbing of our hopes; repress the waywardness of our wills; direct the motions of our affections; and sanctify the varieties of our lot. Be Thou all in all to us; and may all things earthly, while we bend them to our growth in grace, and to the work of blessing, dwell lightly in our hearts, so that we may readily, or even joyfully, give up whatever Thou dost ask for. May we seek first Thy kingdom and righteousness; resting assured that then all things needful shall be added unto us.

Father, pardon our past ingratitude and disobedience; and purify us, whether by Thy gentler or Thy sterner dealings, till we have done Thy will on earth, and Thou removest us to Thine own presence with the redeemed in Heaven—Amen.

MARY CARPENTER.

LORD, give us hearts never to forget Thy love; but to dwell therein whatever we do, whether we sleep or wake, live or die, or rise again to the life that is to come. For Thy love is eternal life and everlasting rest; for this is life eternal to know Thee and Thy infinite goodness. O let its flame never be quenched in our hearts; let it grow and brighten, till our whole souls are glowing and shining with its light and warmth. Be Thou our Joy and Hope, our Strength and Life, our Shield and Shepherd, our Portion for ever. For happy are we if we continue in the love wherewith Thou hast loved us; holy are we when we love Thee steadfastly. Therefore, O Thou, Whose name and essence is Love, enkindle our hearts, enlighten our understandings, sanctify our wills, and fill all the thoughts of our hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

JOHANN ARNDT.



GOD our Heavenly Father, renew in us the sense of Thy gracious Presence, and let it be a constant impulse within us to peace, trustfulness, and courage on our pilgrimage. Let us hold Thee fast with a loving and adoring heart, and let our affections be fixed on Thee, that so the unbroken communion of our hearts with Thee may accompany us whatsoever we do, through life and in death. Teach us to pray heartily; to listen for Thy voice within, and never to stifle its warnings. Behold, we bring our poor hearts as a sacrifice unto Thee: come and fill Thy sanctuary, and suffer nought impure to enter there. O Thou Who art Love, let Thy Divine Spirit flow like a river through our whole souls, and lead us in the right way till we pass by a peaceful death into the Land of Promise—Amen.

GERHARD TERSTEEGEN.

GOD, perfect us in love, that we may conquer all selfishness and hatred of others; fill our hearts with Thy joy, and shed abroad in them Thy peace which passeth understanding; that so those murmurings and disputings to which we are too prone may be overcome. Make us long-suffering and gentle, and thus subdue our hastiness and angry tempers, and grant that we may bring forth the blessed fruits of the Spirit, to Thy praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

HENRY ALFORD.

LMIGHTY GOD, Who alone gavest us the breath of life, and alone canst keep alive in us the breathing of holy desires, we beseech Thee for Thy compassion's sake to sanctify all our thoughts and endeavours, that we may neither begin any action without a pure intention, nor continue it without Thy blessing; and grant that, having the eyes of our understanding purged to behold things invisible and unseen, we may in heart be inspired with Thy wisdom, and in work be upheld by Thy strength, and in the end be accepted of Thee, as Thy faithful servants, having done all things to Thy glory, and thereby to our endless peace. Grant this prayer, O Lord—Amen.

ROWLAND WILLIAMS.

H, send Thy light and Thy truth, that I may live always near to Thee, my God. Oh, let me feel Thy love, that I may be, as it were, already in Heaven, that I may do all my work as the angels do theirs; and Oh, let me be ready for every work! be ready to go out or go in, to stay or depart, just as Thou shalt appoint. Lord, let me have no will of my own; or consider my true happiness as depending, in the smallest degree, on anything that can befall me outwardly, but as consisting altogether in conformity to Thy will—Amen.

HENRY MARTYN.

MERCIFUL LORD GOD, Heavenly Father, I render most high laud, praise, and thanks unto Thee, that Thou hast preserved me both this night, and all the times and days of my life hitherto, under Thy protection; and hast suffered me to live until this present hour. And I beseech Thee heartily that Thou wilt vouchsafe to receive me this day, and the residue of my whole life, from henceforth into Thy good keeping; ruling and governing me with Thy Holy Spirit, that all manner of darkness and evil may be utterly chased and driven out of my heart, and that I may walk in the light of Thy truth, to Thy glory and praise, and to the help and furtherance of my neighbour, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour—Amen.

HENRY VIII.'S PRIMER.

RANT me, O most loving Lord, to rest in Thee above all creatures, above all health and beauty, above all glory and honour, above all power and dignity, above all knowledge and subtilty, above all riches and art, above all fame and praise, above all sweetness and comfort, above all hope and promise, above all gifts and favours that Thou canst give and impart to us, above all jubilee that the mind of man can receive and feel; finally, above angels and archangels, and above all the heavenly host, above all things visible and invisible, and above all that Thou art not, O my God. It is too small and unsatisfying, whatsoever Thou bestowest on me apart from Thee, or revealest to me, or promisest, whilst Thou art not seen, and not fully obtained. For surely my heart cannot truly rest, nor be entirely contented, unless it rest in Thee—Amen.

THOMAS à KEMPIS.

SOURCE of Life and Strength! many of Thy mercies do we plainly see, and we believe in a boundless store behind. No morning stars that sing together can have deeper call than we for grateful joy. Thou hast given us a life of high vocation, and Thine own breathing in our hearts interprets for us its sacred opportunities. Thou hast cheered the way with many dear affections and glimpses of solemn beauty and everlasting truth. Not a cloud of sorrow, but Thou hast touched with glory: not a dusty atmosphere of care, but Thy light shines through! And, lest our spirits should fail before Thine unattainable perfections, Thou hast set us in the train of Thy saints who have learned to take up the cross of sacrifice. Let the time past suffice to have wrought our own will, and now make us consecrate to Thine—Amen.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

MOST Merciful and Gracious God, Thou Fountain of all mercy and blessing, Thou hast opened the hand of Thy mercy to fill me with blessings, and the sweet effects of Thy loving-kindness. Thou feedest us like a Shepherd, Thou lovest us as a Friend, and thinkest on us perpetually. as a careful mother on her helpless babe, and art exceeding merciful to all that fear Thee. As Thou hast spread Thy hand upon me for a covering, so also enlarge my heart with thankfulness; and let Thy gracious favours and loving-kindness endure for ever and ever upon Thy servant; and grant that what Thou hast sown in mercy, may spring up in duty; and let Thy grace so strengthen my purposes that I may sin no more, but walk in the paths of Thy commandments; that I, living here to the glory of Thy name, may at last enter into the glory of my Lord, to spend a whole eternity in giving praise to Thy ever-glorious name—Amen.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

LORD GOD, in Whose hand are the wills and affections of men, kindle in my mind holy desires, and repress sinful and corrupt imaginations; enable me to love Thy commandments, and to desire Thy promises; let me, by Thy protection and influence, so pass through things temporal, as finally not to lose the things eternal; and, among the hopes and fears, the pleasures and sorrows, the dangers and deliverances, and all the changes of this life, let my heart be surely fixed, by the help of Thy Holy Spirit, on the everlasting fruition of Thy presence, where true joys are to be found. Grant, O Lord, these petitions. Forgive, O merciful Lord, whatever I have done contrary to Thy laws, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

HE day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man, help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces, let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day, bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonoured, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep—Amen.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

LMIGHTY and most merciful God, the fountain of all goodness, Who knowest the thoughts of our hearts, we confess that we have transgressed against Thee. Wash us, we beseech Thee, from the stains of our past sins, and give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things; so that we may bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

O eternal Light, shine into our hearts; eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil; eternal Power, be Thou our support; eternal Wisdom, scatter our ignorance; eternal Pity, have mercy upon us. Grant that with all our heart, and mind, and strength, we may evermore seek Thy face; and finally bring us, by Thine infinite mercy, to Thy holy presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALCUIN.

GOD, let us not seek beyond Thee what we can find only in Thee, peace and rest, joy and blessedness. Lift our souls above the round of harassing thoughts to the Eternal Presence, the pure bright atmosphere in which Thou art, that there we may breathe freely, there be at rest from ourselves, and from all things that weary us; and thence return, with Thy peace within us, to do and to bear whatsoever pleaseth Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EDWARD BOUVERIE PUSEY.

E beseech Thee, O our God, that we may know Thee, love Thee, and rejoice in Thee; and, if in this life we cannot do these things fully, grant that we may progress in them from day to day. Advance in us a true knowledge of Thee now, that in the life to come it may be complete; increase in us the love of Thee here, that there it may be full, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

S. ANSELM.

PRESERVE us blameless, O Lord, in our goings out and comings in this day. Fill us with the simplicity of a divine purpose, that we may be inwardly at one with Thy holy will, and lifted above vain wishes of our own. Set free from every detaining desire or reluctance, may we heartily surrender all our powers to the work which Thou hast given us to do; rejoicing in any toil, and fainting under no hardness that may befall us as good soldiers of Jesus Christ; and counting it as our crown of blessing if we may join the company of the faithful who have kept Thy name and witnessed to Thy Kingdom in every age. Prepare us to seek our rest, not in outward ease, but in inward devotedness: only fulfil to us the word of the Chief of Saints; leave us His peace, while we remain here; and then receive us unto Thyself, to mingle with the mighty company of our forerunners—Amen.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

GOD, my God, give me a heart to thank Thee; lift up my heart above myself, to Thee and Thine eternal throne; let it not linger here among the toils and turmoils of this lower world; let it not be oppressed by any earth-born clouds of care or anxiety or fear or suspicion; but bind it wholly to Thee and to Thy love; give me eyes to see Thy love in all things, and Thy grace in all around me; make me to thank Thee for Thy love and Thy grace to all and in all; give me wings of love, that I may soar up to Thee, and cling to Thee, and adore Thee, and praise Thee more and more, until I be fitted to enter into the joys of Thine everlasting love, everlastingly to love Thee and Thy grace, whereby Thou didst make me such as Thou couldest love, such as could love Thee, O God, my God—Amen.

EDWARD BOUVERIE PUSEY.

LORD, our God, the fountain of all true and and holy love, Who hast made us, and preserved us, that we may love Thee, give to Thy servants such a love, that whatsoever in Thy service may happen contrary to flesh and blood, they may not feel it; that humility may be their sanctuary, and Thy service the joy of their souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

LORD, Thou knowest my frailty, that I am poor and miserable, and that without Thee I can neither do nor think anything that is good, but that all my sufficiency is of Thee. Arise Thou, therefore, and help me, and by Thy effectual grace give me strength, that the good I will, I may be able to bring to good effect, and that the evil I would not I may overcome and avoid; and that by Thy guidance I may so pass this day, that together with all Thine Elect, whether living or departed, I may live with Thee, and rejoice in Thee, and praise Thee, throughout eternity.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

COME, HOLY GHOST, and send forth from Heaven the rays of Thy light; enliven the darkness of my mind, that I may see and know the sins which I have this day committed in thought, word, or deed, and whatsoever good I have left undone; and give me the grace of true contrition, that I may acknowledge them and hate them as I ought.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

NEED Thee to teach me day by day, according to each day's opportunities and needs. Give me, O my Lord, that purity of conscience which alone can receive, which alone can improve Thy inspirations. My ears are dull, so that I cannot hear Thy voice. My eyes are dim, so that I cannot see Thy tokens. Thou alone canst quicken my hearing, and purge my sight, and cleanse and renew my heart. Teach me to sit at Thy feet, and to hear Thy word—Amen.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, without Whose help labour is useless, without Whose light search is vain, invigorate my studies, and direct my inquiries, that I may, by due diligence and right discernment, establish myself and others in Thy holy faith. Take not, O Lord, Thy Holy Spirit from me; let not evil thoughts have dominion in my mind. Let me not linger in ignorance, but enlighten and support me, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

OST Glorious God! relieve our spirits with Thy graciousness; take from us all tediousness of spirit, and give us a hope that shall not fail, a desire for holiness not to be satisfied till it possesses a charity like Thine own, which will always increase; so that we may turn everything into religion, and do all to Thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

JEREMY TAYLOR.

EACH me, O Lord, and enable me to live the life of saints and angels. Take me out of the languor, the irritability, the sensitiveness, the anarchy, in which my soul lies, and fill it with Thy fulness. Breathe on me with that Breath which infuses energy and kindles fervour. In asking for fervour, I ask for all that I can need, and all that Thou canst give. In asking for fervour, I am asking for faith, hope, and charity, in their most heavenly exercise; I am asking for that loyal perception of duty, which follows on yearning affection; I am asking for sanctity, peace, and joy, all at once. Nothing would be a trouble to me, nothing a difficulty, had I but fervour of soul. Lord, in asking for fervour, I am asking for Thyself, for nothing short of Thee, O my God. Enter my heart, and fill it with fervour by filling it with Thee—Amen.

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

JESU! Maker of the world, Whom no measure can mete nor bound, contain, who holdest the earth within the hollow of Thy hand, call to mind the anguish of Thy torment, when the Jews first fastened Thy most holy Hands with blunt nails to the Cross, and added agony on agony to Thy Wounds, when to fit Thy Body for their purpose and drive the nails through Thy tender Feet, they wrenched Thee so upon the Cross's length and breadth, that all Thy Limbs were out of joint.

I implore Thee by the memory of Thy Cross's hallowed and most bitter anguish, make me fear Thee, make me love Thee.

TREASURY OF DEVOTION.

LORD, hear; Lord, forgive; Lord, do; hear what I speak not, forgive what I speak amiss, do what I leave undone; that, not according to my word or my deed, but according to Thy mercy and truth, all may issue to Thy glory and the good of Thy kingdom —Amen.

MARIA HARE.

LMIGHTY Father, Whose infinite goodness manifests itself throughout Thy works, and Whose inscrutable purpose is far beyond the limits of our finite conception, grant us, day by day, greater wisdom, more steadfast faith, more becoming humility, and a more thankful spirit. Guide our footsteps, O Lord, and augment our energy to undertake whatever tasks may fall to our lot. Help us to falter not in our purpose and to leave the issue in Thy hands, and grant that when, in due course, our work is finished, we may, through faith and the merits of Thy dear Son, our Saviour, enter into everlasting rest.

ARTHUR MASON.

LORD, Who art a God ready to pardon, and of great kindness, remove far from me all occasions and effects of causeless and inordinate anger. Give me a mild, a peaceable, a meek, and an humble spirit, that, remembering my own infirmities, I may bear with those of others; that I may think lowly of myself, and not be angry when others also think lowly of me; that I may be patient towards all men, gentle and easy to be entreated; that God may be so towards me—Amen.

THOMAS WILSON.

LORD, grant that my heart may be truly cleansed and filled with Thy Holy Spirit, and that I may arise to serve Thee, and lie down to sleep in entire confidence in Thee, and submission to Thy will, ready for life or for death. Let me live for the day, not overcharged with worldly cares, but feeling that my treasure is not here, and desiring truly to be joined to Thee in Thy heavenly kingdom, and to those who are already gone to Thee. O Lord, save me from sin, and guide me with Thy Spirit, and keep me in faithful obedience to Thee, through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord—Amen.

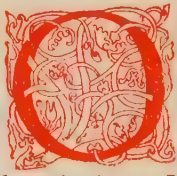
THOMAS ARNOLD.

LORD our God, under the shadow of Thy wings let us hope. Thou wilt support us, both when little, and even to grey hairs. When our strength is of Thee, it is strength; but, when our own, it is feebleness. We return unto Thee, O Lord, that from their weariness our souls may rise towards Thee, leaning on the things which Thou hast created, and passing on to Thyself, Who hast wonderfully made them; for with Thee is refreshment and true strength—Amen.

S. AUGUSTINE.

GOD, the Father of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Whose name is great, Whose nature is blissful, Whose goodness is inexhaustible, God and Ruler of all things, Who art blessed forever; before Whom stand thousands and thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand, the hosts of holy angels and archangels; sanctify, O Lord, our souls and bodies and spirits, search our consciences, and cast out of us every evil thought, every base desire, all envy and pride, all wrath and anger, and all that is contrary to Thy holy will. And grant us, O Lord, Lover of men, with a pure heart and contrite soul, to call upon Thee, our holy God and Father who art in heaven—Amen.

LITURGY OF S. JAMES.



GOD, Thou art Life, Wisdom, Truth, Bounty, and Blessedness, the Eternal, the only true Good! My God and my Lord, Thou art my hope and my heart's joy. I confess, with thanksgiving, that Thou hast made me in Thine image, that I may direct all my thoughts to Thee, and love Thee. Lord, make me to know Thee aright, that I may more and more love, and enjoy, and possess Thee. And since, in the life here below, I cannot fully attain this blessedness, let it at least grow in me day by day, until it all be fulfilled at last in the life to come. Here be the knowledge of Thee increased, and there let it be perfected. Here let my love to Thee grow, and there let it ripen; that my joy being here great in hope, may there in fruition be made perfect—Amen.

S. ANSELM.

LORD, our Guide even unto death, grant us, I pray Thee, grace to follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest. In little daily duties to which Thou callest us, bow down our wills to simple obedience, patience under pain or provocation, strict truthfulness of word and manner, humility, kindness: in great acts of duty or perfection if Thou shouldest call us to them, uplift us to self-sacrifice, heroic courage, laying down of life for Thy Truth's sake or for a brother—Amen.

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.

LORD, my God, Light of the blind and Strength of the weak; yea, also, Light of those that see, and Strength of the strong; hearken unto my soul, and hear it crying out of the depths.

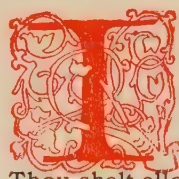
O Lord, help us to turn and seek Thee, for Thou hast not forsaken Thy creatures as we have forsaken Thee, our Creator. Let us turn and seek Thee, for we know Thou art here in our hearts, when we confess to Thee, when we cast ourselves upon Thee, and weep in Thy bosom, after all our rugged ways; and Thou dost gently wipe away our tears, and we weep the more for joy; because Thou, Lord, who madest us, dost remake and comfort us.

Hear, Lord, my prayer, and grant that I may most entirely love Thee, and do Thou rescue me, O Lord, from every temptation, even unto the end—Amen.

S. AUGUSTINE.

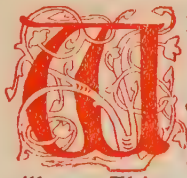
GIVE me, O Lord, purity of lips, a clean and innocent heart, humility, fortitude, patience. Give me the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and godliness, and of Thy fear. Make me ever to seek Thy face with all my heart, all my soul, all my mind; grant me to have a contrite and humble heart in Thy presence. Most high, eternal, and ineffable Wisdom, drive away from me the darkness of blindness and ignorance; most high and eternal Strength, deliver me; most high and eternal Light, illuminate me; most high and infinite Mercy, have mercy on me—Amen.

GALLICAN SACRAMENTARY.



DESIRE, O God, this day most earnestly to please Thee; to do Thy will in each several thing which Thou shalt give me to do; to bear each thing which Thou shalt allow to befall me contrary to my will, meekly, humbly, patiently, as a gift from Thee to subdue self-will in me; and to make Thy will wholly mine. What I do, make me do simply as Thy child; let me be, throughout the day, as a child in his loving father's presence, ever looking up to Thee. May I love Thee for all Thy love. May I thank Thee, if not in words, yet in my heart, for each gift of Thy love, for each comfort which Thou allowest me day by day—Amen.

EDWARD BOUVERIE PUSEY.



ITH all my heart and soul, O God, I thank Thee, that in all the changes and chances of this mortal life, I can look up to Thee, and cheerfully resign my will to Thine. I have trusted Thee, O Father, with myself; my soul is in Thy hand, which I verily believe Thou wilt preserve from all evil; my body, and all that belongs to it, are of much less value. I do therefore, with as great security as satisfaction, trust all I have to Thee. I am persuaded that neither tribulation, nor anguish, nor persecution, nor famine, nor nakedness, nor peril, nor sword, nor death which I may fear, nor life which I may hope for, nor things present which I feel, nor things to come which I may apprehend, shall ever prevail so far over me, as to make me not to resign my will entirely to Thee—Amen.

THOMAS WILSON.

RANT unto us, Almighty God, that we, communing with one another and with Thee, may feel our hearts burn within us, until all pure, and just, and holy and noble things of God and man may be to us lovely, and we may find nothing to fear but that which is hateful in Thine eyes, and nothing worth seeking but that which is lovely and fair therein. Let the divine brightness and peace possess our souls, so that, fearing neither life nor death, we may look to Thy loving-kindness and tender mercy to lift us above that which is low and mean within us, and at last to give the spirit within us the victory, and bring us safe through death into the life everlasting. Hear us of Thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

GEORGE DAWSON.

LORD our God, teach us we beseech Thee, to ask Thee aright for the right blessings. Steer Thou the vessel of our life toward Thyself, Thou tranquil Haven of all storm-tossed souls. Show us the course where-in we should go. Renew a willing spirit within us. Let Thy Spirit curb our wayward senses, and guide and enable us unto that which is our true good, to keep Thy laws, and in all our works evermore to rejoice in Thy glorious and gladdening Presence. For Thine is the glory and praise from all Thy saints for ever and ever—Amen.

S. BASIL.

I WILL say unto my God, my Lord, and my King, "O how great is the abundance of Thy goodness, O Lord, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee." But what art Thou to those who love Thee? What to those who serve Thee with their whole heart? In this especially Thou hast showed me the sweetness of Thy love; that, when I was not, Thou madest me, when I went far astray from Thee, Thou broughtest me back again, that I might serve Thee, and hast commanded me to love Thee. I would I were able, at least for one day, to do Thee some worthy service. Truly, Thou art my Lord, and I Thy servant, who am bound to serve Thee with all my might; and this I wish to do, this I desire; and whatsoever is wanting unto me, do Thou, I beseech Thee, vouchsafe to supply—Amen.

THOMAS à KEMPIS.

NFINITE and Holy One, Whom we know as our Father and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we devoutly thank Thee for the mercy that created us from the dust, and for the greater mercy that has created us anew by a heavenly adoption as Thy children. For the undying yearning, which Thou hast implanted in us, after things unseen,—for their satisfaction in Thyself, we thank Thee; and we rejoice that Thou hast been willing to encourage our frail and mortal spirits, by revealing to us something of the perfections of Thy nature, and calling us to follow after Thee. Grant, we pray, that Thy loving-kindness may be followed by our obedience. And do Thou so confirm our best purposes by renewing our sense of Thy presence, that we may both imitate Thy nature, and accept Thy dealings with us in the spirit of childlike trust, and by the help of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord —Amen.

HENRY W. FOOTE.

HOLY Spirit, Love of God, infuse Thy grace, and descend plentifully into my heart; enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling, and scatter there Thy cheerful beams; dwell in that soul that longs to be Thy temple; water that barren soil, over-run with weeds and briars, and lost for want of cultivating, and make it fruitful with Thy dew from heaven. Oh come, Thou refreshment of them that languish and faint. Come, Thou Star and Guide of them that sail in the tempestuous sea of the world; Thou only Haven of the tossed and shipwrecked. Come, Thou Glory and Crown of the living, and only Safeguard of the dying. Come, Holy Spirit, in much mercy, and make me fit to receive Thee—Amen.

S. AUGUSTINE.

EACH me, O Father, how to ask Thee each moment, silently, for Thy help. If I fail, teach me at once to ask Thee to forgive me if I am disquieted, enable me, by Thy grace, quickly to turn to Thee. May nothing this day come between me and Thee. May I will, do, and say, just what Thou, my loving and tender Father, willest me to will, do, and say. Work Thy holy will in me and through me this day. Protect me, guide me, bless me, within and without, that I may do something this day for love of Thee; something which shall please Thee; and that I may, this evening, be nearer to Thee, though I see it not, nor know it. Lead me, O Lord, in a straight way unto Thyself, and keep me in Thy grace unto the end—Amen.

EDWARD BOUVERIE PUSEY.

GOD, Who seest all our weaknesses, and the troubles we labour under, have regard unto the prayers of Thy servant, who stands in need of Thy comfort, Thy direction, and Thy help. Thou alone knowest what is best for us; let me never dispute Thy wisdom or Thy goodness. Lord, so prepare my heart, that no affliction may ever so surprise as to overbear me. Dispose me at all times to a readiness to suffer what Thy Providence shall order or permit. Grant that I may never murmur at Thy appointments, nor be exasperated at the ministers of Thy Providence—Amen.

THOMAS WILSON.

MERCIFUL GOD, full of compassion, long-suffering and of great pity, make me earnestly repent and heartily to be sorry for all my misdoings; make the remembrance of them so burdensome and painful that I may flee to Thee with a troubled spirit and a contrite heart; and, O merciful Lord, visit, comfort and relieve me; excite in me true repentance; give me in this world knowledge of Thy truth and confidence in Thy mercy, and, in the world to come, life everlasting. Strengthen me against sin, and enable me so to perform every duty, that whilst I live I may serve Thee in that state to which Thou hast called me; and, at last, by a holy and happy death, be delivered from the struggles and sorrows of this life, and obtain eternal happiness, for the sake of our Lord and Saviour, Thy Son Jesus Christ—Amen.

SAMUEL JOHNSON.

REST upon us, O Spirit of Love, and chase all anger, envy, and bitter grudges from our souls. Be our Comforter in trial, when the billows go over our heads; be our Strength in the hour of weakness, and help us to control the desires of the flesh. Let us grow in faith and love, in hope, patience, and humility. See by how many temptations we are surrounded, and preserve us from giving way to them; show us the path wherein we should tread, for if we trust to our own impulses we shall go astray; but if Thou lead us we shall run in the way of Thy commandments. Our hearts lie open before Thee; enter now with Thy rich gifts, strengthen, stablish, settle them. Dwell in them and make them Thy temple, so shall we have the pledge of our sonship, and of our salvation—Amen.

J. F. STARK.

SEARCHER of hearts, Thou knowest us better than we know ourselves, and seest the sins which our sinfulness hides from us. Yet even our own conscience beareth witness against us, that we often slumber on our appointed watch; that we walk not always lovingly with each other, and humbly with Thee; and we withhold that entire sacrifice of ourselves to Thy perfect will, without which we are not crucified with Christ, or sharers in His redemption. Oh, look upon our contrition, and lift up our weakness, and let the dayspring yet arise within our hearts, and bring us healing, strength, and joy. Day by day may we grow in faith, in self-denial, in charity, in heavenly-mindedness. And then, mingle us at last with the mighty host of Thy redeemed for evermore—Amen.

JAMES MARTINEAU.

THOU, Who art the true Son of the world, evermore rising, and never going down; who, by Thy most wholesome appearing and sight dost nourish, and make joyful all things, as well that are in heaven, as also that are on earth; we beseech Thee mercifully and favourably to shine into our hearts, that the night and darkness of sin, and the mists of error on every side, being driven away, Thou brightly shining within our hearts, we may all our life long go without any stumbling or offence, and may walk as in the day-time, being pure and clean from the works of darkness, and abounding in all good works which Thou hast prepared for us to walk in—Amen.

ERASMUS.

GOD, Thou only Refuge of Thy children! Who remainest true though all else should fail, and livest though all things die, cover us now when we fly to Thee. Rebuke within us all immoderate desires, all unquiet temper, all presumptuous expectations, all ignoble self-indulgence: and feeling on us the embrace of Thy Fatherly hand, may we meekly and with courage go into the darkest ways of our pilgrimage; anxious not to change Thy perfect will, but only to do and bear it worthily. May we spend all our days as in Thy presence, and meet our death in the strength of Thy promise, and pass hence into the nearer light of Thy knowledge and Thy love—Amen.

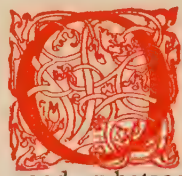
JAMES MARTINEAU.

Y adorable God, I humbly beseech Thee to accept the sacrifice I here, in all humility, desire to make Thee, of the remainder of my life; to be entirely employed, with the utmost vigour both of my soul and body, in Thy service and adoration. Pardon all the sins and offences of my life past, and be pleased to bestow upon me a steadfast faith, an ardent love, an humble and perfect obedience, and a will capable of no other inclination than what it shall continually receive from the absolute guidance of Thy divine will; to which I beg it may be ever perfectly subservient, with all readiness and cheerfulness. As all my thoughts and actions are continually before me, so I humbly beseech Thee, that they may never be unworthy of Thy divine Presence, for Jesus Christ's sake—Amen.

CHARLES HOW.

LMIGHTY and Eternal God, Who hast revealed Thy nature in Christ Jesus Thy Son as Love: we humbly pray Thee give us Thy Holy Spirit to glorify Thee also in our hearts as pure Love, and thus constrain us by Thy Divine power to love Thee again with our whole souls, and our brethren as ourselves; that so by Thy grace we may be fulfilled with love, and evermore abide in Thee and Thou in us, with all joyfulness, and free from fear or distrust, through Jesus Christ our Lord—Amen.

BUNSEN'S COLLECTION.



LORD, if only my will may remain right and firm towards Thee, do with me whatsoever it shall please Thee. For it cannot be anything but good, whatsoever Thou shalt do with me. If it be Thy will I should be in darkness, be Thou blessed; and if it be Thy will I should be in light, be Thou again blessed. If Thou vouchsafe to comfort me, be Thou blessed; and, if Thou wilt have me afflicted, be Thou ever equally blessed—Amen.

THOMAS à KEMPIS.

ATHER of all, hear our petition and answer our prayers in so far as they accord with Thy divine will. Renew our faith, subdue our fears, increase our patience, may we resign ourselves to Thy will. Thou knowest, O Lord, what is best for us. Help us to be contented and to accept our lot without repining. The natural man within each one of us desires temporal possessions and personal ease, rather than to dwell on the things that are eternal. Make us mindful, we beseech Thee, of the fleeting nature of our earthly life, and prepare us for the life that is to come.

HERBERT FRY.

EAR our prayers, O Lord; grant us Thy aid which we need so much. How difficult it is for us to live in such a way as to satisfy ourselves. How much more difficult so to order our lives that we may please Thee. Help us, we pray Thee, to a knowledge of our shortcomings, teach us to examine ourselves day by day, and lest we be led to despair of our condition, help us to remember Thy promise that Thou wilt not turn away from those that seek Thee. God be merciful unto us for Jesus Christ's sake.

ARTHUR MASON.

GOD, Who hast commanded us to be perfect, as Thou our Father in heaven art perfect: put into our hearts, we pray Thee, a continual desire to obey Thy holy will. Teach us day by day what Thou wouldest have us do, and give us grace and power to fulfil the same. May we never from love of ease, decline the path which Thou pointest out, nor, for fear of shame, turn away from it—Amen.

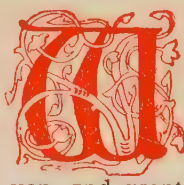
HENRY ALFORD.

E beseech Thee, O Lord, let our hearts be graciously enlightened by Thy holy radiance, that we may serve Thee without fear in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life; that so we may escape the darkness of this world, and by Thy guidance attain the land of eternal brightness; through Thy mercy, O blessed Lord, Who dost live and govern all things, world without end—Amen.

SARUM BREVIARY.

MERCIFUL Father, Thou art ever gracious, ever ready to listen to the petitions of Thy creatures, and ever willing to forgive them their transgressions. Grant us that we may ever seek those things that are good, that we value truth above all else, that we may not be too busied with temporal interests, but may ever be mindful of the fleeting nature of earthly things in comparison with things eternal.

ARTHUR MASON.



E most earnestly beseech Thee, O Thou Lover of mankind, to bless all Thy people, the flocks of Thy fold. Send down into our hearts the peace of heaven, and grant us also the peace of this life. Give life to the souls of all of us, and let no deadly sin prevail against us, or any of Thy people. Deliver all who are in trouble, for Thou art our God, Who settest the captives free; Who givest hope to the hopeless, and help to the helpless; Who liftest up the fallen; and Who art the Haven of the shipwrecked. Give Thy pity, pardon, and refreshment to every Christian soul, whether in affliction or error. Preserve us, in our pilgrimage through this life from hurt and danger, and grant that we may end our lives as Christians, well-pleasing to Thee and free from sin, and that we may have our portion and lot with all Thy saints—Amen.

LITURGY OF S. MARK.

ACCOMPLISH Thy perfect work in our souls, O Father; let us become day by day purer, freer, more heavenly, more happy, and preserve us unto eternal life. Bless, animate, and sustain us, and raise us mightily above all that would distract us, to Thyself and the consciousness of Thy fellowship which gives joy to all who dwell therein. As yet we are bound with many chains; we tarry among things seen and temporal, and feel their oppression; we are exposed to the storms of the outer world, and are wrestling with its ills. But we are not dismayed, for we are more than earth and dust, we are akin to Thee, O Spirit of the Lord, and can experience Thy heavenly influence. Unite us ever more closely to the company of faithful hearts whom Thou art sanctifying and preparing for heaven; fill us with their faith and love and hope—Amen.

D. R. REINHARD.

ALMIGHTY GOD, help us to put away all bitterness and wrath and evil-speaking, with all malice. May we possess our souls in patience, however we are tempted and provoked, and not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. Enable us, O God of patience, to bear one another's burdens, and to forbear one another in love. Oh, teach and help us all to live in peace and to love in truth, following peace with all men and walking in love, as Christ loved us, of whom let us learn such meekness and lowliness of heart that in Him we may find rest for our souls. Subdue all bitter resentments in our minds, and let the law of kindness be in our tongues, and a meek and quiet spirit in all our lives. Make us so gentle and peaceable that we may be followers of Thee as dear children, that Thou, the God of peace, mayest dwell with us for evermore—Amen.

BENJAMIN JENKS.

MERCIFUL GOD, be Thou now unto me a strong tower of defence, I humbly entreat Thee. Give me grace to await Thy leisure, and patiently to bear what Thou doest unto me; nothing doubting or mistrusting Thy goodness towards me; for Thou knowest what is good for me better than I do. Therefore do with me in all things what Thou wilt; only arm me, I beseech Thee, with Thine armour, that I may stand fast; above all things, taking to me the shield of faith; praying always that I may refer myself wholly to Thy will, abiding Thy pleasure, and comforting myself in those troubles which it shall please Thee to send me, seeing such troubles are profitable for me; and I am assuredly persuaded that all Thou doest cannot but be well; and unto Thee be all honour and glory—Amen.

LADY JANE GREY.

GRANT, O Heavenly Father, that we may so faithfully believe in Thee, and so fervently love one another, alway living in Thy fear, and in the obedience of Thy holy law and blessed will, that we, being fruitful in all good works, may lead our life according to Thy good pleasure in this transitory world, and after this frail and short life, obtain the true and immortal life where Thou livest and reignest, world without end—Amen.

THOMAS BECON.

LORD, in Whom is our hope, remove far from us, we pray Thee, empty hopes and presumptuous confidence. Make our hearts so right with Thy most holy and loving heart, that hoping in Thee we may do good; until that day when faith and hope shall be abolished by sight and possession, and love shall be all in all—Amen.

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI.

OVERN all by Thy wisdom, O Lord, so that my soul may always be serving Thee as Thou dost will, and not as I may choose. Do not punish me, I beseech Thee, by granting that which I wish or ask, if it offend Thy love, which would always live in me. Let me die to myself, that so I may serve Thee: let me live to Thee, who in Thyself art the true Life—Amen.

S. THERESA.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou Who madest all things, and understandest all things, pour down upon us, in Thy bounteous mercy, Thy Holy Spirit, and grant that Thy servants may be enabled to escape the many perils and temptations which daily surround them. The best of us is imperfect, the strongest of us is weak, the most zealous of us is forgetful of Thy manifold mercies. O Lord, make us ever more worthy, strengthen us and increase our zeal for Thy glory. Turn not Thy face from us and remember not our iniquities. Grant us these mercies, Lord, for the sake of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

ARTHUR MASON.

UR God, we thank Thee with all our hearts for preserving us in safety until this day. We know not from day to day what things may befall us, but we put our trust in Thee, and Thou wilt not fail us. May we forget not that Thou hast spared us many trials, many losses, many sufferings; and should it be Thy will that affliction should fall upon us, may we receive it in patience and submission, knowing that Thou our Father knowest what is good for us.

HERBERT FRY.

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